THE

WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

For MONDAY, October 4, 1802.

The French Deſcription of the Battle of the Nile.

Written by M. Denon, a ſcientific Frenchman, who accompanied General Bonaparte to Egypt.

ON the morning of the 31ſt of July, 1798, the French were maſters of Egypt, Corfu, and Malta; thirty veſſels of the line united theſe poſſeſſions with France, and rendered the whole one empire. England, meanwhile, was only cruizing in the Mediterranean with numerous fleets, for which ſhe could not find even proviſions but with much difficulty, and at a prodigious expence.

Bonaparte, feeling all the advantage of this ſituation, was deſirous, in order to preſerve it, that the fleet ſhould enter the port of Alexandria; he offered a reward of two thouſand zeckins* for the diſcovery of means of bringing this about, and a paſſage into the old port was found. The evil genius of France, however, adviſed and perſuaded the admiral to ſhut himſelf up at Abû-kîr, and thus, in one day, to change the reſult of a long ſeries of ſucceſſes.

On the afternoon of the 31ſt, chance led M. Denon and his companions to the convent of Abû-mandûr, which terminates a pleaſant promenade from Raſhid, along the borders of the Nile. A little further, there is a tower of Arabic conſtruction. It ſtands in the middle of a large plain: and overlooks, on the one ſide, a yellow deſert, of vaſt extent, terminated by the ſea. When, however, the mind is ſaddened by this proſpect, it can ſooth itſelf by turning to all that nature has to diſplay, of verdure, riches, and abundance; the plains of the Delta, covered with rice-fields and ſugar-grounds, and interſected by innume-

* A Turkiſh zeckin is worth about nine ſhillings ſterling.

rable canals, that terminate in the Nile, which river, at this part of its courſe, is always covered with barks, moving in every direction.

Arrived at this tower, they perceived, at the diſtance of ſeven leages, twenty ſail enter the bay of Abû-kîr. Theſe veſſels arrived, formed a line of battle, and attacked the fleet of the French, almoſt in the ſame moment. They heard the diſcharge of the firſt cannon at five o'clock. Soon after this, the ſmoke concealed the two fleets from their ſight; but when it became dark, they were able to diſtinguiſh better, though they were too far off to underſtand what was paſſing. The danger they ran of being made priſoners by the ſmalleſt party of Bedûins could not diſtract the anxious attention they paid to an event of ſo great intereſt. The rolling and redoubled noiſe of the cannon was continual: they ſaw that the battle was terrible; and that it was ſuſtained on both ſides with equal obſtinacy. On returning to Raſhid, they went on the roofs of their houſes: towards ten o'clock, a ſtrong burſt of light ſhowed a fire to have taken place in the fleet; ſame minute, a dreadful exploſion enſued, and then as profound a ſilence. At eleven o'clock, a ſlow fire recommenced; at midnight, the battle was completely renewed; but at two o'clock in the morning it again ceaſed. At day-break, the cannonade began once more. At nine o'clock, a ſecond veſſel blew up. At ten, four ſhips, the only ones that remained entire, which they recognized to be French (and which at that moment they believed to be victors, becauſe they were neither attacked nor followed) withdrew from the ſcene of action, under crowded ſail.

M. Denon paſſed his time on the top of the tower of Abûmandûr, inceſſantly examining the bay with his teleſcope. Three days paſſed before he learned the real event of the firſt and ſecond of Auguſt. The bogaz ſhut up, and the communication with Alexandria intercepted, at length, however, made him fully aware, that circumſtances had changed againſt the French; that, ſeparated from the mother country, they were become coloniſts, who, till peace ſhould arrive, were to exiſt by their own exertions and by their own reſources; in a word he learned that the Engliſh fleet had doubled the French line, not ſufficiently ſupported by the iſland which ſhould have defended it; that the enemy, taking the veſſels of the latter one by one, by means of his double line, had rendered half its ſtrength uſeleſs, leaving it only a ſpectator of the deſtruction of the other; that it was the Orient which had blown up at ten o'clock on the night of the thirty-firſt of July, and the Hercules which had followed the next morning; that the commanders of the ſhips the William Tell and the Generous, and of the frigates the Diana and the Juſtice, ſeeing the reſt in the power of the enemy, had taken advantage of his wearineſs, and eſcaped. He learned,

learned, in ſhort, that the firſt of Auguſt had broken the fabric of the power and glory of France; that, deſtroying her fleet, it had beſtowed the empire of the Mediterranean on her enemies.

The ſituation of the French was now entirely changed. Under the poſſibility of being attacked, it was become neceſſary to prepare for defence.

Since the loſs of the fleet, the troops that were at Raſhid* had been ſcattered among the caſtles and batteries in little garriſons; it had become neceſſary, in order to maintain a communication between the two cities, to eſtabliſh a caravan between Alexandria and Raſhid, by the way of Abû-kîr, and ſoldiers were employed to protect theſe caravans from the Arabs: there remained, therefore, too ſmall a number of troops at this latter place, to defend it in caſe of attack. Under theſe circumſtances, it was propoſed to form a militia of the travellers, the ſpeculators, the uſeleſs, fickle, wandering, and irreſolute men who had arrived at Alexandria, or already returned from Kaira: a large liſt, including amphibia who, corrupted by the campaigns of Italy, and having heard that the harveſts of Egypt were the moſt abundant in the world, had thought that ſuch a country muſt have fortunes ready made for the firſt poſſeſſors; epicures and debauchees who, with minds faſcinated by Savary's account, had ſet out from Paris, in ſearch of new pleaſures at Kaira; ſpeculators who came to ſupply the army, to feel the pulſes of trade, and import and ſell at high prices, whatever the colony could want; meanwhile, the beys had withdrawn all their money and magnificence from Kaira; the populace had pillaged the houſes; Bonaparte did not want contractors; and the merchant-ſhips were blockaded by the Engliſh; misfortunes which, to the eyes of theſe travellers, threw a gloom over all Egypt.

Confounded at finding themſelves priſoners, diſappointed in their projects, and obliged to concur in the defence and improvement of a place which they found would only promote the proſperity of the whole empire of France, they ſent home the moſt melancholy recitals. Theſe recitals, intercepted by the Engliſh, contributed to deceive that nation with reſpect to our condition. The Engliſh pleaſed themſelves with believing that we were dying with hunger; ſent back our priſoners, that they might haſten the period of our deſtruction; printed in their gazettes that half our army was in the hoſpitals; that half the other half were employed in leading the blind remainder: and all this time, Upper Egypt was ſupplying us with abundance of the beſt wheat, and the Lower with the fineſt rice; the ſugar of the country was ſold at half the price of ſugar in France; the numberleſs herds of buffaloes, oxen, ſheep and goats, as well of the cultivators as of the Arab paſtors, ſufficiently ſupplied the

* Roſetta.

great increaſe of conſumption at the very moment of the invaſion, and promiſed abundance and ſuperfluity for the future; and, for the luxury of the table, we could add every kind of poultry, fiſh, game, vegetables, and fruits. Such, then, were the objects of the firſt neceſſity which Egypt offered to her detractors; detractors who wanted gold to ſupply the illuſions they had indulged, and who not finding gold, ſaw nothing around them but burning ſands, fleas and gnats, dogs which diſturbed their ſleep, intractable huſbands, and veiled women, who ſhowed nothing but the eternal neck!

NEW ANECDOTES *of* VOLTAIRE.

[From a Work lately publiſhed at Paris.]

WHEN Voltaire viſited Paris in 1778, he lived in the houſe of the Marquis de Villette, *Quai des Theatins*. Every one who viſited the houſe was anxious to ſee the great author of the age. One day ſeveral ladies of the court came in the hope of obtaining this pleaſure. Voltaire, however, happened to be in a bad humour, and refuſed to be ſeen by them; at laſt yielding to the ſolicitations of Madame de Villette, who begged as a favour that he would appear among them juſt for a moment, he ſtepped down ſtairs to the room in which the ladies were aſſembled. Having entered, he took two or three turns round the floor, muttering—"There, ladies—here's the bear—ſatisfy your curioſity—take a good look at him," and then ran up ſtairs to his apartment.

One day M. Villette invited a numerous company to dinner. On ſitting down to table, Voltaire miſſed a favourite goblet which he had marked for his own uſe—"Where is my goblet?" looking with an angry eye to a tall footman who was particularly appointed to wait on him. The ſervant blundered out an apology.—"Get me my goblet," ſaid the old man in a fury—"if I have not my goblet, I ſhall have no dinner." The goblet, however, could not be found, and he left the table in a rage, and ſhut himſelf up in his apartment. This ſcene diſturbed and vexed all the company. It was at laſt determined to ſend M. de Villevieille, of whom he was very fond, to endeavour to bring him back. He rapped gently at Voltaire's door—"Who's there?"—"Your friend Villevieille.—"Ah," opening the door, "Is it you my dear Marquis—what do you want?"—"I come in the name of all our friends, who are inconſolable on account of your abſence, and to expreſs the regret of M. de Villette, who has diſmiſſed the ſtupid fellow who was the cauſe of your diſpleaſure."—"I cannot go down."—"Why?"—"They muſt be laughing at me below ſtairs."—"How can you

you ſuppoſe that? We all take a fancy to the poſſeſſion of particular things. One is attached to a glaſs, another to a knife, another to a pen, &c."—" I ſee you wiſh to excuſe me; rather ſay, frankly, that every one has his weakneſſes; I bluſh for mine: but go down ſtairs firſt, and I ſhall follow you." Voltaire appeared ſoon after, and ſeated himſelf at the table, with all the timidity and awkwardneſs of a child who had committed a fault, and is afraid of being chid.

Voltaire determined to go one morning on foot from M. de Villette's to the French academy. On paſſing by the Louvre, a woman threw herſelf at his feet, exclaiming—" My friends, this is the defender of the unfortunate Calas; come, let us all kneel and bleſs him." This attracted an immenſe crowd, and Voltaire found it neceſſary to return immediately.—He confeſſed that he never experienced a ſenſation at once ſo delicious and ſo painful.

Some Account of the celebrated Commodore Paul Jones, tranſlated from a Manuſcript written by himſelf.

(Continued from Page 244.)

IN the month of January, 1778, I repaired to Paris, to make the neceſſary arrangements with the American miniſters, relative to the equipment of the Indienne; but, as the recent intelligence relative to the capture of Burgoyne had determined the court of France to recogniſe the independence of America by means of a treaty of alliance, and as the Engliſh ambaſſador at the Hague, in conſequence of obtaining poſſeſſion of the papers of an American agent, found that the Indienne was the property of congreſs, I acquieſced in the opinion of the American miniſters; and it was determined to cede the property to his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty, this being the moſt likely method of preſerving the property.

I then returned on board the Ranger, and, as I had received information from America, relative to the force and ſtations of the Engliſh fleets in that quarter, I immediately tranſmitted a letter to Mr. Deane, one of the American miniſters at Paris, communicating the plan of an expedition with a ſquadron of 10 ſail of the line, a few frigates and a ſmall body of land forces, with a view of completely deſtroying the enemy's naval power acting againſt the United States. This ſcheme was not adopted until it was too late, and then it of courſe became impracticable.

In the mean time I took ſeveral American veſſels under my convoy, from Nantes to the Bay of Quiberon, where M. la Motte Piquet was lying at anchor with ſix ſail of the line, a few frigates, and ſeveral merchantmen, which he was to take under his

his protection to the weſtward of Cape Finiſterre. M. de la Fayette was on board this fleet, which was provided with cloathing, ammunition, and military ſtores for America.

I reached the Bay, February 13, 1778, and ſent to demand of the admiral, if he would return my ſalute; and this compliment was immediately agreed to by that brave officer, although neither he nor I knew at that period, that a treaty of alliance had been ſigned between France and America ſeven days before; this was the firſt ſalute received by the American flag from any power, and occaſioned much diſpute in the Engliſh parliament.

I now ſet ſail from the Bay of Quiberon to Breſt, but did not enter the road; on the contrary, I anchored at Cammerit, where I was detained by contrary winds until the French ambaſſador at the court of St James's, had announced the treaty lately concluded between his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty and the United States.

On this, I immediately ſailed into Breſt water, and ſaluted the Count D'Orvilliers, who returned the ſalute, and received me with all the honours due to an admiral, on board his flag-ſhip, La Bretagne.

In the month of February, 1776, the parliament of England had authorized George III. to treat all the Americans taken at ſea, with arms in their hands, as traitors, pirates, and felons: this, more than any other circumſtance, rendered me the declared enemy of Great Britain. From the very commencement of the war, an exchange of priſoners had taken place between General Waſhington and the commanders of the enemy's army; notwithſtanding the haughty conduct of Great Britain, ſhe was obliged to ſubmit to this arrangement, and conſider the American ſoldiers as priſoners of war. It was, however, an atrocious crime to act againſt her by ſea; and England, on this occaſion, perpetrated anew all the cruelties on America, which ſhe had laviſhed on Scotland in 1745. A ferocious and vindictive people would have rejoiced to have ſeen the American ſailors cut down from the gibbet while yet alive, their breaſts opened with a knife, and their yet palpitating hearts thrown into the flames! If they did not dare to attempt this, they, however, ſhut up a number of citizens of the United States, in the Engliſh priſons during five whole years, where they ſuffered all the horrors proceeding from cold, hunger, and every ſort of maltreatment. Some of theſe unfortunates were ſold on the coaſt of Africa, while others were tranſported to the Weſt Indies. The firmneſs with which theſe martyrs of liberty ſupported their hard lot, is wholly unexampled; for they preferred every kind of perſecution to ſerving on board the Engliſh navy.

Indignant at the barbarous treatment experienced by the Americans, I determined to make a grand effort in their behalf, with a view of ſtopping the barbarous proceedings of the Engliſh in

Europe, as well as on the weſtern continent, in the latter of which they ſet fire to their houſes, deſtroyed their property, and burned and deſtroyed whole towns. I accordingly determined, by way of retaliation, to effect a deſcent on ſome part of England, with a view of deſtroying the ſhipping. It was alſo my intention to make ſome perſon of diſtinction priſoner, whom I reſolved to detain as a hoſtage for the ſecurity of, and in order to exchange with, the American priſoners in England.

Admiral D'Orvilliers, to whom I communicated this project, offered to procure for me a captain's commiſſion in the French marine, that, in caſe I met with any diſaſter, I might claim the protection of his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty; but, however advantageous this was, I determined to decline the acceptance, becauſe, in the firſt place, I was not authoriſed by congreſs to change my flag; and, in the ſecond, ſuch a conduct might have rendered my attachment to America ſuſpected.

I accordingly ſailed from Breſt, and advanced towards Ireland, neglecting the capture of a number of veſſels within my reach, as I did not wiſh to diminiſh the ſtrength of my crew. Near to the entrance into Carrickfergus, I, however, ſeized on a fiſhing-boat, manned with ſix perſons, who proved to be pilots. The Drake, a twenty-gun ſhip, happened to be then in the road, and even within ſight, and I imagined it poſſible to obtain poſſeſſion of her by ſurpriſe during the night. With this view, I immediately gave orders for making the neceſſary preparations; but the mate, who had drank too much brandy, did not let go the anchor according to orders, which prevented the Ranger from running foul of the Drake, according to my intentions. As I had reaſon to believe, that my appearance had not hitherto given any alarm, I deemed it prudent to cut my cable, and return into St. George's Channel. I remained there, buffetted about by the winds, during three days, until the weather having become more favourable, I determined a ſecond time to attempt a deſcent: this project, however, greatly alarmed my lieutenants; they were poor, they ſaid, and their object was gain, not honour; they accordingly excited diſobedience among the ſhip's company, by perſuading them that they had a right to determine, whether the meaſures adopted by me were well concerted or not.

I happened to be at this period within ſight of Whitehaven, in Cumberland, at the mouth of the Solway Frith. This is a conſiderable harbour, in which there then were about 400 ſail, ſome of them veſſels of 250 tons burthen; and I had determined to take advantage of the ebb-tide, when the ſhipping was dry, to deſtroy them. To effect this, it was neceſſary to land about midnight, with a party of determined men, and ſeize on a fort and a battery, which defended the port. My two lieutenants, being averſe to the enterpriſe, and yet being unwilling to diſcover their true motives, feigned illneſs. On this I determined to

take

take the command in perſon, and with much difficulty prevailed on thirty volunteers to follow me.

With this handful of men, and two ſmall boats, I quitted the Ranger, at eleven o'clock at night, and rowed towards the harbour; but, it being farther off than we imagined, and the tide againſt us, day broke before we had effected a landing.

I now ſent the ſmalleſt of the boats towards the northern ſide of the harbour to ſet fire to the veſſels, while I myſelf advanced with the other to the ſouth, to take poſſeſſion of the fort and battery, the firſt of which was taken by aſſault, I myſelf being the firſt to enter it through one of the embraſures. We then nailed up the thirty-ſix cannon mounted on the batteries, and advanced towards the ſouth, with a view of burning all the veſſels, when, to my infinite aſtoniſhment, I beheld the other boat returning, without having done any thing.

On this, I deemed it beſt to unite my forces, with a view of effecting, at leaſt, ſome part of our enterpriſe. In ſhort, we ſet fire to ſome of the veſſels, and it ſoon burned with great fierceneſs, and began to communicate; but, as it was now eight o'clock in the morning, and the inhabitants began to approach near us in crowds, I could no longer defer my retreat, which was made in good order. On my return on board the Ranger, the wind being favourable, I ſet ſail for the coaſt of Scotland. It was my intention to take the Earl of Selkirk priſoner, and detain his lordſhip as a hoſtage, in conformity to the project already mentioned. It was with this view, that about noon of the ſame day I landed on that nobleman's eſtate, with two officers and a few men. In the courſe of our progreſs, I fell in with ſome of the inhabitants, who, taking me for an Engliſhman, obſerved, that Lord Selkirk was then in London, but that her ladyſhip and ſeveral ladies were at the caſtle.

On this I determined to return: but ſuch moderate conduct was not conformable to the wiſhes of my people, who were diſpoſed to pillage, burn, and deſtroy every thing, in imitation of the conduct of the Engliſh towards the Americans. Although I was not diſpoſed to copy ſuch horrid proceedings, more eſpecially when a lady was in queſtion; it was yet neceſſary to recur to ſuch means as ſhould ſatisfy their cupidity, and, at the ſame time, provide for Lady Selkirk's ſafety. It immediately appeared to me, to be the moſt proper mode to give orders to the two officers to repair to the caſtle with the men, who were to remain on the outſide under arms, while they themſelves entered alone. They were then inſtructed to enter, and demand the family plate, in a polite manner, accepting whatever was offered to them, and then to return, without making any farther inquiries, or attempting to ſearch for more.

I was punctually obeyed; the plate was delivered; Lady Selkirk herſelf obſerved to the officers, that ſhe was exceedingly

ſenſible of my moderation; ſhe even intimated a wiſh to repair to the ſhore, although a mile diſtant from her reſidence, in order to invite me to dinner; but the officers would not allow her ladyſhip to take ſo much trouble.

(To be continued.)

On the DRESS *and* TEMPER *of* FEMALES.

IT is, I think, univerſally allowed, that ſimilarity of temper is one of the principal requiſites in matrimonial felicity; and yet too great a ſimilitude may in ſome caſes render both parties very uncomfortable. For inſtance, ſhould two perſons of a gay and thoughtleſs diſpoſition happen to be united, both would moſt likely purſue their own amuſements without any attention to domeſtic œconomy, till, perhaps, the very means for their ſubſiſtence may be irretrievably laviſhed away. Again, ſhould two perſons of a gloomy diſpoſition commence the career of life together, the ſombre caſt of their characters would be increaſed by each other's converſation, and melancholy would at length become habitual to their diſpoſitions.

Upon the whole, however, I am perfectly convinced that wherever there is any material difference of ſentiments or manners, there never was, nor will be, a happy marriage. It is a common obſervation, that people naturally admire thoſe they love, and imitate thoſe they admire. Poſſibly the ſimilarity which ariſes from a deſire to pleaſe is ſuperior to that which is merely perſonal. To adopt the ſentiments of a friend, is the moſt delicate proof we can give them of our eſteem: it may be valued as a ſacrifice made of our own opinions in compliment to their's, and ſeldom fails of being well received by polite and ſenſible people. Indeed, good breeding is a very great promoter of conjugal happineſs, and ſhould be quite as much practiced in domeſtic intercourſe as in the more extended circles of ſociety.

Another duty annexed to the character of a wife is not only to regulate her own temper, but likewiſe to prevent her huſband's temper from appearing in a diſagreeable light, by ſtudiouſly obſerving the proper time for whatever ſubjects on which ſhe may have to addreſs him. By avoiding every ſubject that is unpleaſant to him, or likely to diſturb his tranquillity or wound his feelings, theſe minor duties would do away much of the bickerings which we too often ſee between thoſe who nevertheleſs paſs in the world for very happy couples.

It not unfrequently happens that men are diſturbed and perplexed with buſineſs, which imparting a ſerioufneſs to their features, and occaſioning a temporary abſence of mind, ſome wives haſtily attribute to gloom or peeviſhneſs; by reſenting the ima-

ginary affront alſo, they excite, perhaps, in reality ill-humour or diſguſt. That the influence of temper is univerſally extenſive, and that it is one of the main ſprings which directs or deranges the human machine, through every ſtation of life, no one, I believe, will think of denying. This then being the caſe, let us look on its influence in another point of view.

When once an habitual fourneſs of diſpoſition has taken root, there is no alkaline in nature ſufficiently ſtrong to correct it: it ſcorns the voice of admonition, mocks the tears of tenderneſs, and defies the meliorating influence of ſocial harmony. It is indeed, in a young woman, both tormenting and diſguſting. Her parents in vain lament a perverſity which neither affection or reproof has been able to controul; her brothers and ſiſters finding no return made to their tenderneſs, at length ceaſe to feel themſelves intereſted for her—acquaintances ſhun her, and friends ſhe has none. In this uncomfortable ſtate ſhe becomes an alien in the midſt of ſociety, and ſurrounded by thoſe over whom ſhe might diffuſe the ſweetneſs of domeſtic ſerenity, and be largely repaid by reciprocal enjoyments. Inſtead of this her heart becomes a prey to ſelfiſhneſs, and grows in time callous even to the calls of duty and the pleadings of humanity.—I will not dwell on this horrid picture—would to Heaven it was never realized! but, alas! there are few families who have not to regret the fatal influence of bad temper in ſome one or other of their connections.

Sometimes I have obſerved in young women an affected gravity, which they would with you to miſtake for wiſdom; but it is by no means like the original—nor indeed are any copies like realities. Why ſhould a young woman aſſume any character not natural to her? Why not let the delicate and pure mind ſhine upon the countenance without the gloſs of art or the glare of folly? Cheerfulneſs and innocence are the natural attendants of youth, and a young woman never appears more amiable than when under their influence. I ſhall only remark, that as ſweetneſs of temper, candour, and ſincerity are generally rewarded by affection and eſteem, beſides affording their poſſeſſors that ſweet peace which goodneſs boſoms ever, ſo the malevolent paſſions operate in the contrary extreme—they excite no ſympathy, attract no regard, and only give to their miſtaken victims the ſad privilege of torturing themſelves—for peace can never take up her abode with envy, rage, or hatred.

Be it then your care, my fair readers, to guard your hearts from the baneful influence of theſe deſtructive demons. Let ſweetneſs, ſerenity, and affection, laugh in the eye, and bloſſom on the cheek.

" Do thou, my fair, endeavour to poſſeſs
" An elegance of mind as well as dreſs."

So

So ſung the elegant Lyttleton; and who was better qualified to decide on female attractions than himſelf, or who had felt with more ſenſibility the power of feminine beauty and ſweetneſs? Wonder not then at the advice he gave his fair countrywomen. I believe it is very ſeldom that a ſenſible woman need be told that neatneſs of perſon indicates delicacy or elegance of mind. We rarely ſee a woman of manners inattentive to the neatneſs of her perſon, a ſlattern ever being thought a diſguſting object moſt women ſhun. But in doing this they ſometimes fall into the contrary extreme, and dreſs becomes the only object they think worth purſuing. Both extremes ſhould certainly be avoided, and dreſs regulated entirely by the rank and circumſtances of the wearer. All women ſhould be neat, but few need be elegant; and it would be highly abſurd and profuſely ridiculous for the wife of a tradeſman to affect the appearance of a woman of faſhion. It is not finery alone that conſtitutes elegance: nor ſhould neatneſs be confined to the perſon of a female—it ſhould be ſeen in her houſe, in her furniture, in her children and ſervants; in ſhort, it ſhould unite along with order and œconomy to govern her family and direct her purſuits.

On the INVENTION *of* TELEGRAPHS.

IN the life of Monſieur William Amontons, a member of the French Academy, publiſhed in 1717, (who was the ſon of a lawyer, and born in Normandy in the year 1663), we have the following paſſage—

"Perhaps it will not be looked upon any otherwiſe than as an amuſement or paſtime of the mind; but, however, a very ingenious one that he invented, a method of communicating the thoughts of one perſon to another at a very great diſtance: for example, from Paris to Rome in ſo ſhort a time as three or four hours, in ſuch a manner that thoſe who lived between ſhould know nothing of the matter, and yet this propoſition, ſo paradoxical and ſo chimerical in appearance, was executed in a ſmall extent of country—once before the Duke of Orleans, and at another time before the ducheſs; for though Monſieur Amontons did not at all underſtand the art of making his court to great men, yet his merit made him known to ſeveral great princes. The ſecret conſiſted in placing people at ſeveral poſts at certain diſtances from each other, who by the help of teleſcopy could perceive certain ſignals, at the poſt before them, and tranſmit them to the next behind them, and ſo on; theſe different ſignals were ſo many letters of an alphabet, of which they only had the cypher at Paris and at Rome. The great reach of the teleſcopes made the diſtance of the poſts, the number of which were to be as few as poſſible, and as the ſecond poſts tranſmitted the ſignals

to the third as ſoon as ever he received them from the firſt, the news was carried from Paris to Rome in almoſt as ſhort a time as was neceſſary to make the ſignals at Paris."

Monſieur Amontons was admitted into the Royal Academy of Paris in the year 1699, at the time Louis XIV. gave them their new rules, and died October 11th, 1705, aged 42 years, and about two months.

On the ANTIQUITY *of* COURSING.

[From the Rev. W. B. Daniel's Rural Sports.]

THIS amuſement is of great antiquity, and is treated on by Arrian, who flouriſhed A. D. 150. It was firſt uſed by the Gauls, the moſt luxurious and opulent of whom, uſed to ſend out good hare-finders early in the morning, to thoſe places where it was likely to find hares ſitting: they returned to their employers with an account of the number of hares found, who then mounted their horſes, and took out their greyhounds to courſe them; not more than two greyhounds were to be ran at once, and thoſe were not to be laid in too cloſe to the hare, for although the animal is ſwift, yet when firſt ſtarted, ſhe is ſo terrified by the hallooing, and by the cloſeneſs and ſpeed of the dogs, that her heart is overcome with fear, and in the confuſion very often the beſt ſporting hares were killed without ſhewing any diverſion; ſhe was therefore allowed to run ſome diſtance from her ſeat, before the dogs were ſet after her. The beſt hares were thoſe found in open and expoſed places; they did not immediately try to avoid the danger by running to woods, but while contending in ſwiftneſs with the greyhounds, moderated their own ſpeed according as they were preſſed; if overmatched in ſpeed by the dogs, they then tried to gain ground by frequent turns, which threw the dogs beyond them, making at the ſame time their ſhorteſt way to the covers, or neareſt ſhelter. The true ſportſman even in Arrian's time, did not take out his dogs to deſtroy the hares, but for the ſake of ſeeing the conteſt between them, and was glad if the hare eſcaped, which was never prevented, by diſturbing any brake in which ſhe might have concealed herſelf, after beating the greyhounds. They were alſo frequently taken alive from the dogs, by the horſemen who cloſely followed them, and after the greyhounds were taken up, were turned down for future ſport. They uſed to ſpeak to their greyhounds while in the field, conſidering it a kind of encouragement to them to know that their maſter was a witneſs of the excellence of their running; but this ſpeaking was recommended to be chiefly confined to the firſt courſe, leſt after being weakened by a ſecond or third, they might, by ſuch encouragement,

ment, exert themſelves beyond their ſtrength, and hurt their inſides, which was thought to be the deſtruction of many good dogs.

Thoſe who had not the conveniency of harefinders, went out commonly in a company on horſeback, when they beat the likely grounds, and on ſtarting a hare the greyhounds were let looſe after her: thoſe who were more keen after the ſport, uſed to go on foot, and if any one accompanied them on horſeback, it was his buſineſs to follow the dogs during the courſe. It is ſingular, that after the lapſe of ſo many centuries, the mode of beating for a hare in courſing, ſhould be now, exactly what it then was. The company were drawn up in a ſtraight rank, either horſe or footmen, and proceeded at certain diſtances, from each other, in a direct line to a given point, and wheeling round that they might not go over preciſely the ſame track, they beat the ground regularly back. This practice is ſtill continued. A perſon was appointed to take the command of the ſport, if there were many dogs out; he gave orders that ſuch and ſuch dogs ſhould be ſlipped, according as the hare took to the right or left, and theſe orders were punctually obeyed.

The Gauls ſometimes mixed and uſed finders with their greyhounds, and while theſe tried to find the hare, the greyhounds were led by the hand at a ſmall diſtance, taking care, however to lead them where the hare was moſt likely to come: and here the greyhounds pretty well ſupplied the uſe of Zenophon's nets. This method of courſing was deemed irregular, as the ſtouteſt hares were ſo alarmed with the cries of the finders, that if they did not ſtart a very conſiderable way before, they were ſure to be killed. This method is very much practiſed in ſome parts of Great Britain, to the great conſolation of thoſe, who think no courſe worth ſeeing, unleſs there is a hare at the end of it.

A young hare when found ſitting, was not diſturbed, as it was conſidered unfair to run the greyhounds at her; but with the finders, (who are ſaid to have been very eager through hunger, and ſo deſirous of eating up what they caught, that it was difficult to get them off, even by beating them with ſticks) the exerciſe of this clemency was impoſſible.

In our own country, during the reign of King John, greyhounds were frequently received by him as payment in lieu of money, for the renewal of grants, fines, and forfeitures belonging to the crown: the following extracts prove this monarch to have been exceedingly partial to this kind of dogs. A fine paid A. D. 1203, mentions five hundred marks, ten horſes, and ten leaſhes of greyhounds; another, in 1210, one ſwift running horſe, and ſix greyhounds.

The greyhound in ancient times was conſidered as a very valuable preſent, and eſpecially by the ladies, with whom it appears to have been a peculiar favourite: in a very old metrical romance

mance, called Sir Eglamore, a princeſs tells the knight that if he was inclined to hunt, ſhe would, as an eſpecial mark of her favour, give him an excellent greyhound, ſo ſwift that no deer could eſcape from his purſuit.

" Syr yf you be on huntynge founde,
" I ſhall you gyve a good greyhounde
" That is dunne as a doo:
" For as I am trewe gentylwoman,
" There was never deer that he at ran,
" That might yſcape him fro."

The Iſle of Dogs, now converting to the firſt commercial purpoſes, derived its name from being the depot of the ſpaniels and greyhounds of Edward III. and this ſpot was choſen, as lying contiguous to his ſports of woodcock ſhooting, and courſing the red deer, in Waltham, and the other royal foreſts in Eſſex, for the more convenient enjoyment of which he generally reſided in the ſporting ſeaſon at Greenwich.

In the days of Eliſabeth, when ſhe was not herſelf diſpoſed to hunt, ſhe was ſo ſtationed as to ſee the courſing of deer with greyhounds. At Cowdrey, in Suſſex, the ſeat of Lord Montecute, A. D. 1591, one day after dinner, the queen ſaw from a turret, " ſixteen bucks all having fayre lawe, pulled down with greyhounds in a launde or lawn."

In ancient times three ſeveral animals were courſed with greyhounds, the deer, the fox, and the hare. The two former are not practiſed at preſent, but the courſing of deer formerly was a recreation in high eſteem, and was divided into two ſorts; the paddock and the foreſt or purlieu. For the paddock courſing, beſide the greyhounds, which never exceeded two, and for the moſt part conſiſted of one brace, there was the teazer or mongrel greyhound, whoſe buſineſs it was to drive the deer forward before the real greyhounds were ſlipt. The paddock was a piece of ground generally taken out of a park, and fenced with pales or a wall; it was a mile in length, and about a quarter of a mile in breadth, but the further end was always broader than that which the dogs ſtarted from, the better to accommodate the company in ſeeing which dog won the match. At the hither end was the dog-houſe, (to encloſe the dogs that were to run the courſe,) which was attended by two men, one of whom ſtood at the door to ſlip the dogs, the other was a little without the door, to let looſe the teaſer to drive away the deer. The pens for the deer intended to be courſed, were on one ſide, with a keeper or two to turn them out; on the other ſide, at ſome diſtance, ſtood the ſpectators. Along the courſe were placed poſts. The firſt, which was next the dog-houſe and pens, was the law-poſt, and was diſtant from them one hundred and ſixty yards. The ſecond

was the quarter of a mile, the third the half mile, the fourth the pinching poſt, and the fifth marked diſtance, in lieu of a poſt, was the ditch, which was a place made ſo as to receive the deer, and keep them from being further purſued by the dogs. Near to this place were ſeats for the judges, who were choſen to decide the wager.

So ſoon as the greyhounds that were to run the match were led into the dog-houſe, they were delivered to the keepers, who by the articles of courſing were to ſee them fairly ſlipt: for which purpoſe there was round each dog's neck a falling collar which ſlipt through rings. The owners of the dogs drew lots which dog ſhould have the wall, that there ſhould be no advantage; the dog-houſe door was then ſhut, and the keeper turned out the deer; after the deer had gone about twenty yards, the perſon that held the teaſer looſed him, to force the deer forward, and when the deer was got to the law-poſt, the dogs were led out from the dog-houſe, and ſlipt. If the deer ſwerved before he got to the pinching-poſt, ſo that his head was judged to be nearer the dog-houſe than the ditch, it was deemed no match, and was to be run again three days after, but if there was no ſuch ſwerve, and the deer ran ſtraight until he went beyond the pinching-poſt, then that dog which was neareſt the deer, (ſhould he ſwerve) gained the conteſt; if no ſwerve happened, then that dog which leapt the ditch firſt was the victor; if any diſputes aroſe, they were referred to the articles of the courſe, and determined by the judges.

In courſing deer in the foreſt or purlieu, two ways were uſed; the one courſing from wood to wood, and the other upon the lawns by the keepers' lodges. In the firſt, ſome hounds were thrown into the cover to drive out the deer, while the greyhounds were held ready to be ſlipt where the deer was expected to break; if the deer was not of a proper age or ſize, the dogs were not let looſe; and if, on the other hand he broke at too great diſtance, or was otherwiſe deemed an overmatch for one brace, it was allowable to way-lay him with another brace of freſh greyhounds.

For the courſing upon the lawn, the keeper had notice given him, and he took care to lodge a deer fit for the purpoſe, and by ſinking the wind of him, there was no danger of getting near enough to ſlip the greyhounds, and having a fair courſe.

In courſing the fox, no other art was neceſſary but to get the wind, and ſtand cloſe on the outſide of the wood, where he was expected to come out, and to give him law enough, or he inſtantly returned back to the cover; the ſloweſt greyhounds were ſpeedy enough to overtake him; and all the hazard was, the fox ſpoiling the dog, which frequently happened: for the moſt part the greyhounds uſed for this courſe were hard-bitten dogs, that would ſeize any thing.

The

The old couplets that deſcribed this ſpecies of dogs, were exact in the points they recommended as neceſſary to form a complete greyhound.

" Head like a ſnake,
" Neck'd like a drake,
" Back'd like a beam,
" Sided like a bream,
" Tailed like a rat,
" And footed like a cat."

In chooſing a whelp, the choice formerly was governed by the weight, and that which was the lighteſt, was generally thought to prove the nimbleſt and beſt. The rawboned, lean, looſe made, and unſeemly whelps in every joint, grew up well-ſhaped dogs; whereas thoſe that after three or four months appeared round, cloſe truſſed, and well built in every part, were not worth the rearing, ſeldom proving ſwift or comely. It was alſo an obſervation in ancient times, that the bitches were commonly more ſpeedy than the dogs, and this remark is ſtill made by thoſe who have had the beſt opportunities of deciding upon the ſubject.

For courſing the hare the plan was formerly to find one ſitting, if poſſible, and if a hare ſat near a cover, with a fair field behind her, the company ſtationed themſelves ſo as to force her to the champaign, for it is remarked that a hare ſeldom takes the ſame way that her head points when in her form.

The laws of courſing were eſtabliſhed by the Duke of Norfolk in Queen Eliſabeth's reign, and which were agreed to by the nobility and gentry who then followed the diverſion, and have been always held authentic.

Courſing has apparently loſt nothing of its value in the eye of the ſportſman, however it may have ſuffered in the ſplendour which accompanied it when honoured with the royal preſence in former ages. It is an amuſement much in vogue at the preſent period.

A HINT.

IF an ancient painter, who had with indefatigable attention and perſeverance wrought up the productions of his pencil to the greateſt perfection in his power, thought it a ſufficient apology for his aſſiduity to ſay—" I paint for eternity," how much more juſtly may every believer in a future ſtate vindicate the moſt exact attention to his moral conduct, by ſaying,—" I live for eternity!"

AN ANECDOTE.

DURING the laſt viſit which the late Dr. Samuel Johnſon made to Litchfield, the friends with whom he was ſtaying miſſed him one morning at the breakfaſt table; on enquiring after him of the ſervants, they underſtood he had ſet off from Litchfield at a very early hour, without mentioning to any of the family whither he was going. The day paſſed without the return of the highly-valued gueſt, and the party began to be very uneaſy on his account, when, juſt before the ſupper-hour, the door opened, and the doctor ſtalked into the room. A ſolemn ſilence of a few minutes enſued, nobody daring to enquire the cauſe of his abſence, which was at length relieved by Johnſon addreſſing the lady of the houſe in the following manner:

"Madam, I beg your pardon for the abruptneſs of my departure from your houſe this morning; but I was conſtrained to it by my conſcience. Fifty years ago, Madam, on this day, I committed a breach of filial piety, which has ever ſince lain heavy on my mind, and has not till this day been expiated. My father, you recollect, was a bookſeller, and had long been in the habit of attending ——— market, and opening a ſtall for the ſale of his books during that day. Confined to his bed by indiſpoſition, he requeſted me, this time fifty years ago, to viſit the market, and attend the ſtall in his place. But, Madam, my pride prevented me from doing my duty, and I gave my father a refuſal. To do away the ſin of this diſobedience, I this day went in a poſtchaiſe to ———, and going into the market at the time of high buſineſs, uncovered my head, and ſtood with it bare an hour before the ſtall which my father had formerly uſed, expoſed to the ſneers of the ſtanders by, and the inclemency of the weather; a penance by which, I truſt, I have propitiated Heaven for this only inſtance, I believe, of contumacy toward my father."

Anſwer, by C. Carne, Pupil to Mr. Chivers, at St. Auſtell, to T. Davis's Queſtion, inſerted May 17.

PUT $a=2000$, $b=396$, and let x, y, and z, denote the reſpective gain of each merchant; then per queſtion $x+y+z=b$, $\frac{x}{2}+\frac{z}{2}=y$, and $z=\frac{2y}{3}$; hence by ordering theſe equations properly we get $3y=b$, and hence $y=b\div 3=132$l. So that A.'s ſhare of the gain is 176l. B.'s 132l. and C.'s 88l. making in the whole 396l. the total gain. Now by a proceſs very ſimilar to the preceding one, the ſtock of A. at firſt will be found to be 857l. 2s. $10\frac{1}{4}$d. B.'s 666l. 13s. $3d\frac{1}{4}$. and C.'s 476l. 3s. 10d.

Anſwer, by R. Maſſett, of Saltaſh, to J. Squance's Rebus, inſerted Auguſt 9.

THE town is WARRINGTON I ween,
That in your rebus plain is ſeen.

☞ We have received the like anſwer from Juvenis, of Dorcheſter; William Mann, of Aſhburton; J. Paſcal, of Briſtol; J. Lewis, and T. Adey, of Poole; T. Whicker, and W. Strong, of Exeter; and Recluſe, of Awliſcombe.

Anſwer, by Juvenis, of Dorcheſter, to H. H. Tullidge's Rebus, inſerted Auguſt 9.

LONG as the circling orbs ſhall roll,
Or earth revolve around the pole,
So long great ANARCHARSIS name
Enroll'd ſhall ſtand in ſcrolls of fame.

*** We have received the like anſwer from W. England, of Dorcheſter; and W. Mann, of Aſhburton.

Anſwer, by T. Whicker, of Exeter, to W. Strong's Charade, inſerted Auguſt 9.

AVAUNT thou elf, with miſchief fraught!
Thon idol of each idiot's thought!
What is there done in miſchief's ſphere,
But thou, dread NOBODY, muſt bear?

†§† We have received the like anſwer from R. Maſſett, of Saltaſh; J. Paſcal, of Briſtol; T. Adey, and J. Lewis, of Poole; and J. Squance, and H. Humphreys, of Exeter.

An ANAGRAM, *by J. Turner, of Langport.*

A Plant, ye bards, if you tranſpoſe,
A clamorous bird it will diſcloſe.

An ENIGMA, *by P. Gove, of Exeter.*

TIME, fleeting time, perpetual flides away,
Ages roll on, they vaniſh and decay;
Hours, days, and years, how ſwiftly ſtill they fly,
And teach frail mortals they themſelves muſt die.
I, like eternity, no end can know,
The ſun may ſink, and ſtars will ceaſe to glow,
This earth, with all the planetary train,
Will be diſſolv'd, and all be fought in vain—
I ſtill the ſame—ſhall never have an end,
Which you, ye bards, I'm ſure will comprehend,
For by thoſe orbs you may my being trace,
While they revolve in the etherial ſpace.
Ye gents. that bend the enigmatic quill,
And you that are in ſciences well ſkill'd,
Know me full well; therefore I'll add no more,
And only beg that you'll my name explore.

☞ *The letter which our valuable correſpondent, Hilarius, enquires for, did not come to hand in due time; it is now, however received, and its contents will be carefully attended to.*

POETRY.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

A Reflection at Sun-ſet, written on the Coaſt of Cornwall in 1800.

DOWN in the boſom of the weſt
The ſetting ſun declines,
Beneath the ocean's hoary veſt,
Of theſe more eaſtern climes:
And as he ſinks, his ſoften'd rays diſplay
The radiant glories of departing day.
To which ſucceeds the empire pale
Of all the tranquil train of night;
Who tell to ſtumb'ring man the tale,
God's matchleſs wiſdom, boundleſs might;
Who ſtamp'd crude chaos with harmonious form;
Who ſpeaks in thunder, and directs the ſtorm.
How will it be with thee, my ſoul!
When yon bright ſun ſhall riſe no more;
When moon and ſtars no longer roll,
And ocean trembling quits the ſhore;
When convuls'd nature, quaking to her centre, dies,
And God's loud trumpet ſhakes the flaming ſkies.
Say, wilt thou ſtand in luſtre bright,
To ſhine a gem in Jeſu's crown,
Or, ſunk in ſhades of tenfold night,
The juſtice of his vengeance own,
And while eternal ages paſs away
Be ſtill receding from the realms of days.

A. O.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

On being ACCOSTED *by a* PROSTITUTE.

THOU can'ſt remember happier days than theſe,
When virtue only gave thy boſom eaſe;
But now how fall'n! how ſunk in deep diſgrace!
Vice fills thy heart, and triumphs in thy face.
Hapleſs thoſe youths, regardleſs of their doom,
Who haſte to thee beneath the "twilight-gloom;
Impetuous paſſion bears them on her wing;
Pleaſure invites, but hides her poiſon'd ſting;
While pale diſeaſe the obſcene revel waits,
And black deſtruction "dwells within thy gates."
Avaunt! thy form, tho' like an angel fair,
Ceaſe thy deluſions, parent of deſpair!
Far from thy paths for ever would I ſtray,
Tho' with the ſpoils of foul pollution gay;
Sepulchral ſtenches taint thy ſyren breath,
And all thy ways lead down to endleſs death.
May Albion's ſons her virtuous daughters prize,
But ſpurn the wanton, and her arts deſpiſe!

Plymouth, 1801.

A. O.

For

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

Lines addreſſed to ROBERT BLOOMFIELD, *Author of the Farmer's Boy, and other Poems.*

SWEET rural bard! whoſe magic numbers claim
A wreath of laurels from the ſhrine of fame;
No venal flatt'ry ſwells my youthful line;
Immortal praiſe attends ſuch pow'rs as thine.
When on thy page with rapt'rous eyes I pore,
The more I read, I ſtill admire the more:
Such lovely ſcenes, in ſimple ſtyle, expreſs'd,
Arouſe the dormant feelings of the breaſt;
'Till wrapt at length in fancy's fairy maze
I view the charms thy plaintive muſe pourtrays.
O bleſt elyſium! O delightful hours!
When thus, my ſoul! inſpir'd by fancy's pow'rs,
Glides o'er the ſcenes, to memory ever dear,
And drops, in ſilence, the expreſſive tear.
Tho' death ſhall ſnatch thee to eternal reſt,
Thou ſtill ſhalt live in every feeling breaſt:
The ruſtic muſe ſhall court the woodland gloom,
And weave freſh garlands for thy ſacred tomb;
And oft extended by the wildwood tree,
Bid the mild zephyrs waft her ſighs to thee.
The love-ſick ſhepherd, by the pale moon's beam,
Along the windings of ſome haunted ſtream,
In penſive mood, the whiſpering reeds among
Shall tune his ſoft lute to thy plaintive ſong:
Whilſt ſportive echo from her moſs-clad cave
Reſounds its murmurs o'er the ſilvery wave.
Thy genius, Bloomfield! all may well admire,
And hear with rapture thy ecſtatic lyre;
I feel its pow'rs, but, ah! my humble lays,
Are far too feeble to expreſs its praiſe.
Oblivion ſoon will whelm my plauſive line,
Whilſt fame, immortal, triumphs over thine.

Devon. HILARIUS.

ADDRESS *to* SIR SYDNEY SMYTH.

WHILE mem'ry holds her ſeat in Britain's iſle,
And its brave ſons, with an exulting ſmile,
Their dead and living heroes' actions ſcan;
Actions whoſe grandeur fill the mind of man.
With wonder and amaze, thy honour'd name
Shines forth, great Sydney! with ſuperior fame.
Ev'n from that land which Indus' waters lave,
To where old Ocean rolls his furtheſt wave;
From north to ſouth; from Ruſſia's frozen bound
To Afric's Cape thy glorious deeds reſound.
When Gallia's chief, with fierce ambition fir'd,
The conqueſt of the Egyptian ſhores deſir'd,
Heroically brave didſt thou defeat
His high rais'd hopes, and forc'd him to retreat;
From Acre's walls indignant bend his way,
While thou waſt hail'd the conqueror of the day.
Ages unborn ſhall tell the glorious tale,
And prove (ſince thy example cannot fail
To rouſe each breaſt its country's rights to ſhield)
Themſelves, like thee, the maſters of the field.

G. B.